

Summary of responses to the parish (Farm Street Church)

The parish is very grateful for the responses from all who took the time to fill in the Farm Street questionnaire so thoughtfully. In addition to these, several groups such as Landings, the Young Adult Ministry and LGBT Catholics Westminster, sent their summaries directly to the Diocese. Below is the report that was sent to the Diocese of Westminster on 31st January 2022:

Statistical information (98 responses):

Age: Child 2%, Teen 2%, Young adult 13%, Adult 40%, Adult (65+) 42%, No response 1%

Religion: Practicing Catholic 77%, Catholic 19%, Other 1%, No religion 1%, No response 2%

Status: Parishioner 61%, Visitor 30%, Neither 4%, No response 5%

Personal involvement with the Church: Yes 63%, No 18%, No response 19%

Approachability of the Church: Yes 84%, No 4%, No response 12%

From these responses certain major themes emerged. Many respondents commented on Pope Francis, specifically on his openness, his engagement with contemporary society, and his focus on the poor and marginalised of the world. Respondents overall had a positive view of the Church in its mission and as a place of encounter between individuals and God, but many identified the sexual abuse crisis as a significant failing of the Church.

A range of challenges for the Church also emerged in the responses. The one mentioned most frequently by far (38% of responses) was the role of women, either in general terms or specifically in positions of leadership, including the priesthood. Other challenges include difficulties in or even barriers to the Church's relationship with LGBT and divorced Catholics. Two groups highlighted as requiring greater outreach from the Church were young adults and the elderly. Teenage and young adult respondents especially were concerned that the Church does not accept the realities of life as it is lived in the modern world.

Many respondents noted one or more issues of the day, chief of which were poverty, the inequality of wealth distribution, conflict and mass migration, refugees, and the otherwise excluded. Some noted that the social-justice teachings of the Church present an opportunity to navigate these complex issues, with specific reference to how Scripture and the Church's spiritual resources could be used in this endeavour.

A number of respondents, both parishioners and visitors, highlighted the existing diversity of the Farm Street community as a strength and noted the welcoming atmosphere of the parish.